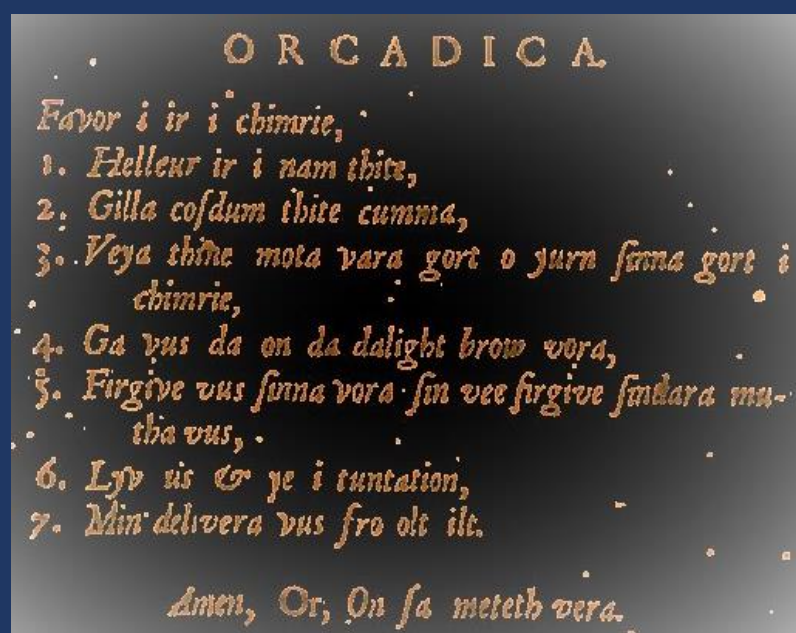


The Lord's Prayer in Orkney Norn



Clive Strutt

Cover Illustration: *The Lord's Prayer* in Orcadian late Norn as depicted on the lower half of p. 45 in Benjamin Motte's ***Oratio dominica***, Ποληγγλωττος, Πολημοφος, nimirum, plus centum linguis, versionibus, aut characteribus reddita & expressa, London, 1700.

The Lord's Prayer ('Our Father') is the most commonly used prayer by Christians. As a prayer given to the Church by Christ himself it has always been regarded as uniquely sacred. It is recorded in full in the Gospel according to Matthew (6:9-13) where it is part of the teaching on prayer in the Sermon on the Mount and in the form liturgically and traditionally recited in the divine services of churches. A shorter and slightly different version of the prayer is recorded in the Gospel according to Luke (11:2-4).

When Jesus walked on the Earth it was not the custom of rabbis and other spiritual teachers to address the Almighty as 'Father' (*Abba*) in a manner that a child might address his father in English as 'Daddy'. Jesus changed this custom and taught his disciples to do the same and it is indeed a mark of being a Christian to address God as *Πάτερ ἡμῶν* ('Our Father'). The prayer is in seven petitions, the first three requesting the glorification of God. The other four are requests for the main spiritual and physical needs of humankind. A Greek adjective *ἐπιούσιος* (*epiousios*) in the prayer is a *hapax legomenon*. The Orkney Norn renders it as *daligh* reflecting the traditional and usual English translation of 'daily'.

On the 21 October 2018 Clive Strutt was the organist at a service in St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Hope, South Ronaldsay, Orkney that was led by Willie Buchan who introduced the congregation to a version of the Lord's Prayer in Orkney Norn and handed the text out on small cards to each one present at the service. This resulted in Clive Strutt composing two musical versions of it, one for organ and soprano and alto female voices and another for SATB unaccompanied. In both versions a phonetic text has been provided that reflects Charles Lamb's recorded pronunciation of it.¹

The source text of the Orkney Lord's Prayer in Norn was written down in the 1690s by James Wallace, in the second edition of his *Account of the Islands of Orkney* published in London by Jacob Tonson, 1700, pages 68 and 69. Regrettably, Wallace does not tell us how he came by the text. It does not include the concluding doxology which was not usual in the liturgical tradition of Latin Christendom. Indeed, the concluding doxology first occurred in the *Scottish Book of Common Prayer* of 1637.

A textual analysis by Hugh Marwick (based on his own study of Marius Hægstad's 1900 *Hildinakvadet*) of this late Norn² Orkney version of the Lord's Prayer is given on pages 29 and 30 in his *The Orkney Norn*, OUP, 1929.

On the following page is the text as set to music by Clive Strutt together with the liturgical Greek text.

Dr Edward W. Watson, Kirkwall, Orkney

¹ Gregor Lamb recited the text on a CD entitled *Whit Like the Day? Understanding Orkney dialect* by Gregor Lamb, Bellavista Publications, 2005.

² The reason for the using 'late' is that three words in the text are from Scots, viz. *tumtation*, *delivra* and *on*.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Favor i ir i chimrie, Helleut ir i nam thite, gilla cosdum thite cumma, Veya thine mota vara gort o yurn sinna gort i chimrie, Ga vus da on da dalight brow vora, Firgive vus sinna vora sin vee firgive sindara mutha vus, Lyn vus ye i tumtation, Men delivera vus fro olt ilt.³</p> <p>On sa meteth vera.⁴</p> | <p>Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου· ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου· γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς· Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον· καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν· καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.⁵</p> |
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³ As printed in *The Orkney Dictionary* by Margaret Flaws and Gregor Lamb, Orkney Language and Culture Group, 2nd Edition, 2001.

⁴ *On sa meteth vera* is an alternative for 'Amen' printed with the Wallace text. It means 'And so may it be'. Greek is not given for this text.

⁵ As set out on page 39 in *The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom*, OUP, 1995.

The Lord's Prayer in Orkney Norn

for Organ and
Soprano and Alto voices

by

Clive Strutt

The Lord's Prayer

(in Orkney Norn)

(Music by Clive Strutt; text edited,
and parallel pronouncing text
supplied by Edward W. Watson.)

Andantino

S.
Fa vor i ir i chime---ri: Hellest ir
Fah_vaw_ ee eerr ee heem----ree: Hält_varr_

A.
nam_ thite Gi l - la cos-dum thite cu m - ma.
nām_ thīt_ Geel-ä kōn-doom thīn coom - ma._

Vey- a thine mo - ta vara gort o yurn sin----a gort i
Vī-- ä thīn maw-tā vahrr_ gortt ō yaurin sinn-- ä_gortt-ee



chime---ri. Ga vus da da-light brow vo-ra.
 heem---ree. Gāv ooss da dā-lōkht brō vaw-rā.



Fir--give vus si n-na vo--ra sin vee fir---give
 Fo rr-geev oos sīn---ā vaw-rā seen vee fo rr-geev



sin-da-ra mu-tha vus, Lgv vus ye i tem-ta--ti--on,
 sīn-dā-rā moo-thā voos, Lā v ooss yā ē tēm-tāt--see--ōn,



meen de--lee-ve-ra vus fro olt ilt. On sa me-teth ve-ra.
 meen dā-lee-vē-rā vooss frō awlt eelt, Awn sah may-tayt vay-ra.



The Lord's Prayer
in Orkney Norn
for SATB choir
unaccompanied by

Clive Strutt

The Lord's Prayer

(in Orkney Norn)

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and parallel pronouncing text
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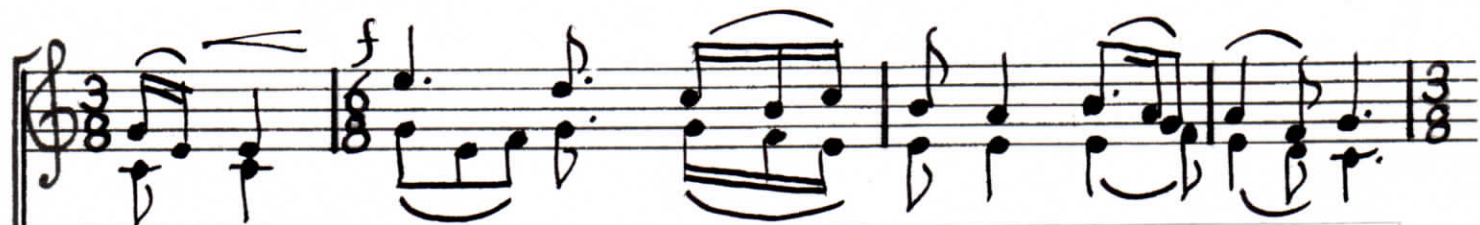
Andantino

S
A
C
O
R
O
T
B

Fa - vor i ir i chime --- ri: Hellest ir
Fah - vaw_ree_eerr_ee_ heem --- ree: Hält_varr_

nam thite. Gi(l - la cos-dum thite cu m - ma.
nā m_ thī t_ Geel-ā_ kōn-doom thīn coom -- ā_

Vey--a thine mo - ta vā - ra gort o yurn sin -- (n)a gort i
Vī - a thīn_maw-tā_vahrr_ gortl ō yawrn_sīnn -- ā_ gortlee



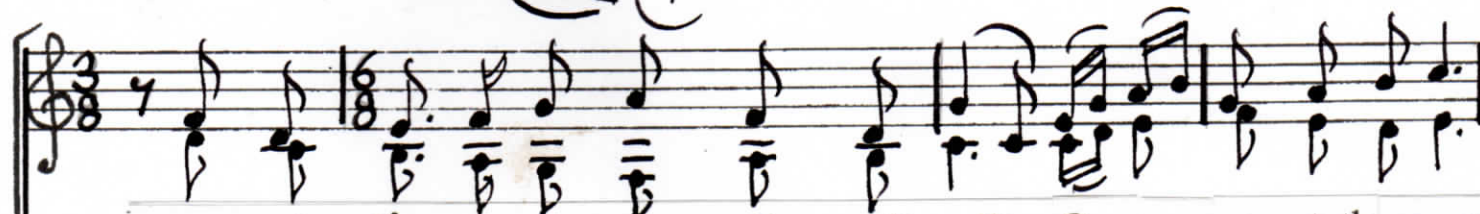
chime --- ri. Ga vus da da-light brow vo - ra.
 heem --- ree. Gāv ooss dā dā-lōkht brō vaw-rrā.



Fir - - give vus si(n)- na vo - - ra sin vee fir - - - give
 Fo rr-geev oos sīn- nā vaw-rrā seen vee fo rr-geev



sin - da-ra mu - tha vus. Lyv vus ye i tem-ta - - ti - - on,
 sīn - dā-rā moo-thā voos. Lāv ooss yā ee tēm-tāt - see - - ō n,



men de -- li -- ve - ra vus fro olt ilt. On sa me - teth ve - ra.
 — meen dā - lee - vē -- rā vooss frō awlt eelt. Awn sah may-tayt vay-ra.



Orkney related works by Clive Strutt

